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ABSTRACT

An arts festival at Helen J. Stewart School, Las Vegas, Nevada, a public school for students with all ranges of mental retardation, features participatory workshops, performances, and a variety of other "arts happenings." The festival is an outgrowth of a creative arts curriculum which promotes art, music, dance, and drama. Planning is extensive and begins in September for the March event. (A detailed timetable is presented.) Sample letters and forms and information flyers are presented as well. (CL)

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HELEN J. STEWART SCHOOL

PRESENTS

THE LOIS BARNES FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

AND WORKSHOPS

FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Paper presented at the Conference on "Interdependence: The Next Decade"
San Francisco, CA
November 3-5, 1983

2375 E. Viking Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
(702)735-9158
Evelyn Mauldin, Art Director

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A very "special Arts Festival" for very special people takes place each spring at Helen J. Stewart, a public school for the mild, moderate, severe and profoundly mentally handicapped.

Art bursts out the doors, in the hallways, resounds in rooms and settles in excitement on each child's face. Hands-on, participatory workshops in music, dance and theatre are located in various parts of the school, and are on a reservation basis due to limited space. They feature exciting and stimulating experiences in contemporary dance, dance theatre in the round, modern dance, body movement exploration, vocal and instrumental music, ventriloquism/puppetry, magic, etc.

Two visual performances, by community professional artists and high school groups, are scheduled each day of the festival. Art exhibits line the walls of the hallways and come from special classes throughout the district. Art films play continuously through the day, giving weary participants an opportunity to rest and relax while being entertained with creative ideas and fantasies.

"Art happenings" line the hallways, nestle in nooks and crannys and overflow to the courtyards. Creative hands-on experiences are provided in 15 to 20 different aspects of art such as clay, collage, spin art, tin foil art, silhouette art, doll making, string art, pen and ink drawing, decoupage, face make-up, weaving wall, Japanese Floral Art, etc. The "art happenings" are coordinated with Valley High School's Art chairman, Leroy Parker, and his students. He sets up the art happenings and supervises the activities of his students during the festival. A number of the workshops are conducted via the courtesy of Clark County School District high school and junior high school teachers and their students.

Originating in the mid-1970's by principal, Robert Foster, the two-day fine arts festival was established as a yearly event in 1980. The first day of the festival is exclusively devoted to the students at Helen J. Stewart; the second day is open to all special classes in the Clark County School District.

The festival is an outgrowth of the Helen J. Stewart Creative Arts Curriculum, whereby all elements of the curriculum - art, music, dance and drama - are brought together to afford ALL special children in the district some creative experiences to expand their own capacities. It is the philosophy of the festival director, Evelyn Mauldin, that through such creative experiences a child experiments with new ideas, expresses feelings, experiences fantasies and resolves fears. It is also a means of experiencing and expressing the process of integrating present reality into past experiences.

Planning for the art festival can be overwhelming, requiring hundreds of minute details and manhours to bring order within apparent chaos. In order to do this, Mrs. Mauldin has established, what she refers to, a "Time Table of Events".

That time table is as follows:

September - Meeting with Clark County School District's (CCSD) fine arts administrative department to:
(1) establish a date for the festival that does not conflict with other fine arts and athletic events in the district.
(2) develop a list of potential performers and workshop conductors within the CCSD and the community.
(3) ask for a list of special classes at each school in the district.

November - (1) list of potential performers and workshop conductors has been received.
(2) list of special classes has been received.

December - (1) start contacting teachers and community artists on the potential list.

January - Week 1 - meet with Leroy Parker, art chairman, Valley High School, to establish "Art Happenings".
Week 2 - order supplies outside the school district.
Week 3 - workshop assignments and space are worked out with Helen J. Stewart auxiliary staff who are conducting workshops and are participating in the festival in other ways.
Week 4 - performances and workshops are at least 80% firmed up.

February - Week 1 - (1) performances and workshops are completely scheduled.
(2) Confirmations are mailed to performing groups and to individuals participating in workshops. (see Exhibits I & II)
Week 2 - (1) release time to spend the day at Valley High School meeting with art, instrumental and dance teachers, and meeting with students who will work with teachers in the workshops.
(2) record students' names, addresses, telephone numbers and the art happenings they are interested in working with.
(3) mail invitational letters to all special classes in the district and attach a brief synopsis of the festival activities. (see Exhibits III & IV)
Week 3 - (1) send confirmation letters of participation to all high school students who will be supervising "art happenings" and/or helping with performing workshops.

(NOTE: This is important! Many parents are concerned about high school students being out of school and this is a formal way of notifying parents where their children will be for two days. From experience, we have also found that students with good grades are more dependable and have a better chance of getting excused from other classes for two days than do students with poor grades.)

(2) TV stations/newspapers are contacted for news coverage.
(3) order supplies from the school district warehouse.
Week 4 - (1) assign posters for each art happening/workshop to Helen J. Stewart staff to make.
(2) send a memo to Helen J. Stewart staff with festival information and a reservation form to be filled out. (see Exhibit V)

March - Week 1 - (1) programs go to the printers.
(2) Incoming reservations are numbered and logged in a reservation book daily on a first-come, first served basis.
(3) staff reservations are numbered and logged in a reservation book.

Week 2 - Monday - Posters are collected from staff who were assigned to make them.
Tuesday - A schedule of workshops for Thursday are completed and put in each teacher's box. (see Exhibit VI)

(NOTE: This schedule is cross-referenced to the reservation form for: 1) workshops, 2) time of workshop, and 3) name of visiting teacher(s) he/she will host.)

Wednesday - Release day - (1) materials for each art happening and workshop are put together and stacked in Mrs. Mauldin's room, with poster on top.
(2) art exhibits are hung.
(3) TV stations and newspapers are called for confirmation of news coverage.
Thursday - (1) 8:00 a.m - Leroy Parker and his students arrive.
(2) tables are placed in hallways and covered.
(3) supplies are picked up and taken where they are to be used.
(4) posters are hung.
(5) workshop schedules are placed outside the door (see Exhibit VII).
(6) 9:30 a.m. - Art Festival opens for Helen J. Stewart students.
(7) workshop schedules are completed for visiting teachers and given to the Chairman of the Greeter committee to hand out to visiting classes as they check in on Friday morning (see Exhibit VIII).

(NOTE: These schedules are also cross-referenced to the reservation form for: 1) workshops, 2) time of workshop, and 3) host-room number and name of teacher. Cross-referencing is important in case someone loses their schedule in the shuffle of getting students to classrooms, things put away and ready to go.)

Friday - 8:00 a.m. - Valley High School students arrive, set up tables, get supplies and help with anything else that needs to be done.
8:30 a.m. - greeters set up at the front door to handle the incoming crowd. If needed, a last-minute briefing is held. All auxiliary staff not involved in workshops are assigned as greeters to take money for lunch tickets, explain where workshops are in the building and show visitors to their host rooms.
9:30-10:00 a.m. - buses arrive with 300-450 visiting students and 100-120 teachers and aides.
10:00 a.m. - Festival opens for all special children in the district.
2:00 p.m. - Festival ends. Mrs. Mauldin collapses!!
Week 3 - Monday - Post-mortem meeting is held to discuss problem areas and how they can be solved the next year, and success areas that need to be expanded.

HELEN J. STEWART SCHOOL
2375 East Viking Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

This letter is to confirm the performance of your group

_____

at the Helen J. Stewart Art Festival for the Handicapped. You are scheduled to perform on _____, March ____, 1984, at _____. The cost of this performance will be $_____.

You have requested the following equipment or supplies:

_____

_____

_____

You will be located in the _____.

If you have any questions, please contact me at school, 735-9158, or at home, 871-0673.

Evelyn H. Mauldin,
Art Festival Director

EXHIBIT I

HELEN J. STEWART SCHOOL
Fine Arts Festival
2375 East Viking Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
735-9158

This letter is to confirm your participation in the Helen J. Stewart Art Festival for the Handicapped. You will be conducting a _____ workshop on _____, March _____, 1984. The costs of your workshop will be $_____.

You have requested the following equipment or supplies:

_____

_____

_____

You will be located in the _____.

If you have any questions, please contact me at school, 735-9158 or at home, 871-0673.

Evelyn H. Mauldin,
Art Festival Director

EXHIBIT II

HELEN J. STEWART SCHOOL
2375 East Viking Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

February 22, 1983

Helen J. Stewart School extends an invitation for your class to participate in the 4th Annual Lois Barnes Fine Arts Festival, to be held Friday, March 11, 1983, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. You are also invited to exhibit your students' art work. If you plan to exhibit, please label each work and deliver it to the school, to Room 22, before 12:00 P.M. Wednesday, March 9th.

Performing workshops are by reservation only, on a "first come" basis. Reservation slips are attached; however, our Secretary, Dorothy Glazer, will take telephone reservations. If you call in your reservation, please do not send a reservation form through the school mail. Please prioritize your choices so if we cannot accomodate all the workshops you wish to participate in, we can try to give you the ones you are most interested in. One workshop - The Photo Shop - will require a fee; everything else is free.

You will be assigned a "Host Room" in which to eat your lunch and leave your belongings. Please check with your host teacher where and how she/he wants to share the room and see that everything is cleaned up before you leave.

Sack lunches and milk will be available at the regular prices -- Student lunch w/milk - 80¢; Adult lunch w/o milk - 80¢; w/milk - $1.05 and just milk - 20¢ for Students and 25¢ for Adults. Deadline to order lunches is March 4th. Due to the new lunch regulations, Paid and Reduced lunch tickets must be purchased from Helen J. Stewart, but Free lunch tickets will be accepted. A greeter will meet you at the door to show you to your host room and to take care of lunches.

Helen J. Stewart Fine Arts Festival
Reservation Form

WORKSHOPS	CHOICE	WORKSHOPS	CHOICE
Dance Shop	_____	Body Movement Exploration	_____
Vocal Music Shop	_____	Magic Shop	_____
Instrumental Music Shop	_____	Art Films	_____
Photo Shop (50¢ Each)	_____		

LUNCHES - DEADLINE TO ORDER - MARCH 4th

# of Students w/Milk _____ # of Adults w/Milk _____ # of Milks @ 20¢ _____

# of Adults w/o Milk ___ # of Milks @ 25¢ _____

ART EXHIBIT

We will exhibit students' Art _____ Yes _____ No

We will arrive at _____ A.M. We will leave at _____ P.M.

NAME OF SCHOOL_____

TEACHER_____ ROOM #_____

OF STUDENTS_____ # OF ADULTS_____

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EXHIBIT III

The Lois Barnes Fine Arts Festival and Workshops

WHERE: HELEN J. STEWART SCHOOL
2375 E. Viking Road

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1983

TIME: 9:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

WHAT'S GOING ON:

Students' Art Exhibits

Performing Work Shops -- Contemporary Dance, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Photography, Body Movement Exploration, Magic and Art Films

Art Happenings -- Doll Making, Macrame, Mural Painting, A Weaving Wall, Clay, Tin Foil, Water Coloring, Silhouette, Collage, Stage Make-up, String Art, Pen & Ink, Squish Art, Pottery & Others

Special Performances -- Jack Young & Co., Magicians
10:00 A.M.

Chapparal Surry Singers
1:30 P.M.

EXHIBIT IV

TO: Helen J. Stewart Staff
FROM: Evelyn Mauldin DATE:
SUBJ: The Lois Barnes 1984 Fine Arts Festival

The Annual Art Festival is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 8tn and 9th. As in the past, Thursday will be our day and Friday will be open to Special Education classes in the district.

Due to the extensive advertising, the Friday reservations are overwhelming -- so you need to plan on not having any workshops available to you on Friday; but you are encouraged to fully participate in "Art Happenings" and Special Performances.

Lunch on those two days will be sack lunches and there will be no scheduled lunch hour. You will need to work in your lunch period around your workshops and the special performances.

Again, we are asking you to host a class from another school. If you feel you cannot do this, please put a note in my box or see me by Monday afternoon, March 5th. "Hosting" a class means giving them a place to put their belongings and a place to eat lunch. If you have a particular way you would like to share your room for lunch or a specific spot to store belongings, please leave this information in my box by Thursday, March 8th, so the greeter who takes the class to your room can transmit this information to the visiting teacher.

I would also like to encourage you to display your students' art work. I need to have it Wednesday, March 7th; along with your room number. You can indicate whether or not you will exhibit on the reservation form.

On the attached reservation form, please prioritize your workshop choices so if we cannot give you all the workshops you would like to participate in, we can give you the ones you are most interested in.

THE LOIS BARNES 1984 FINE ARTS FESTIVAL RESERVATION FORM -- PLEASE RETURN TO E. MAULDIN, ROOM 22 - For Thursday, March 8

WORKSHOPS	CHOICE	WORKSHOPS	CHOICE
Vocal Music Shop	_____	Art Films	_____
Dance Shop	_____	Magic Shop	_____
Photo Shop (50¢)	_____	Instrumental Music Shop	_____
Body Movement Exploration	_____		

ART EXHIBITS
We will exhibit Students' Art ___ Yes ___ No

TEACHER _____

ROOM # _____

EXHIBIT V

March 9, 1983

TO: _____

ROOM: _____

FROM: Evelyn Mauldin

You have volunteered to host the following class on Friday, March 11: _____

_____

Your Thursday workshops are as follows:

1. _____, at _____ in the _____.
2. _____, at _____ in the _____.
3. _____, at _____ in the _____.
4. _____, at _____ in the _____.
5. _____, at _____ in the _____.
6. _____, at _____ in the _____.

EXHIBIT VIII

March 11, 1983

TO: _____

_____

FROM: Evelyn Mauldin

Your host room for today is _____,

with Teacher _____.

Your workshops are as follows:

1. _____, at _____ in the _____.
2. _____, at _____ in the _____.
3. _____, at _____ in the _____.
4. _____, at _____ in the _____.
5. _____, at _____ in the _____.
6. _____, at _____ in the _____.

EXHIBIT VI

Instrumental Music

Work Shop - Friday

time	Name of teacher	# of Students
9:30		
10:30		
11:00		
11:30		
12:00		
12:30		
1:00		

EXHIBIT VII

Instrumental Music

Work Shop - Friday

time	Name of teacher	# of Students
9:30		
10:30		
11:00		
11:30		
12:00		
12:30		
1:00		

EXHIBIT VII